

Reinventing the commons

Local development demands a sense of community, loyalty and empathy between the thinkers and the doers. Reworking local democracy and decisionmaking and strengthening the engagement in and ownership of future solutions in the local community are important steps in going from best to next practice. At the Energy Academy we continuously need feedback and feedforward from our local community and from our national and global network in order to make sure that we are on the right track. The "From Best to Next Practice" symposium is all about that. We think that sustainable development must be spread to more sectors, businesses and areas of society. We need everybody to succeed – and we must work on both the hardware and the software to do that.

"Samsøe 2.0" is our headline for our present plans until 2030 when Samsøe will be independent of fossil fuels. This will take a lot of effort from the local community as well as our partnerships. We have to do things in new ways and take risks. In the hunter and gatherer society we sat down around the campfire eating and talking. What we are trying to do here is to make a modern campfire where we can invite different stakeholders working on the same visions and goals as we are.

A commons is something people connect to. It's a place where you feel you can contribute – it's about giving and receiving. Redefining the commons in a modern context is difficult, and our approach here on Samsøe is pragmatic rather than idealistic. There is no such thing as a stable commons, so we have to keep on creating small joint connections that will work with us on securing the commons of the future. To do that we need a neutral place with an open mind and structure as the Energy Academy. In the next phase for Samsøe we will have to become smarter when it comes to our energy consumption, and we need to show the world how to make this change - not least when it comes to organising a sustainable local society.

This year's "Next Practice" symposium, which is our second, has confirmed our strategy. The output we gained from the conference is even better than what we achieved with the first one in 2011. The symposium is a market place for new ideas, new relationships and ongoing partnerships, and it helps us realise our next steps. With our deepest thanks to everyone in our global and local network – and not least to the ones of you who joined in this year. Thank you for your participation and time, and we hope you'll enjoy this magazine!

Your hosts,

Søren Hermansen & Malene Lundén, Samsøe Energy Academy