



Arne Remmen is a Professor at the Department of Development and Planning, Aalborg University. The Energy Academy has a contract on cooperation with Aalborg University.

[Watch the interview with Arne and see slides](#)

[Read the The Aalborg Commitments](#)

Arne Remmen: Smart Sustainable Samsø 2.0

Arne Remmen talked about the silo building culture and mentality which hinders collaboration and makes it difficult to find common ground. Basically, we have the technology and the right ideas in the scientific literature, but we still miss the practice.

Arne introduces the three S's: "Smart, Sustainable, Samsø" and the four C's: Clean, Clever/Creative, Co-operative, Commons. The fundamental components of smart cities are the human, the institutional and the technological factors. Smart communities is about system integration, and we already have a decentralized energy system in Denmark. We will have energy producing buildings in the future, but everything is going in the wrong direction when it comes to transportation and mobility. Smart communities is also about connecting people and creating local participation, and here Samsøe has demonstrated to the world that it is possible. There are new ways of collaborating, also between local NGOs and the universities. Arne lists the challenges as: Smart & Sustainable, Circular Economy & Resource Efficiency, and Partnerships & the new Commons. More explicitly, the "Aalborg Commitments" target ten focus areas:

1. Sustainable governance
2. Local management towards sustainability
3. Natural common goods
4. Responsible consumption and lifestyle choices
5. Planning and design
6. Better mobility, less traffic
7. Local action for health
8. Vibrant and sustainable local economy
9. Social equity and justice
10. Local to global

Today, there is more competition than collaboration in local communities and one doesn't know what the other is doing. The challenge is to find ways towards a more integrated planning approach in all levels of our systems. We need to set up goals and doing that we have to look at the overall system and not view the single parts separately.

In the circular economy it's all about taking, making and disposing. Among others Ellen McArthur has made some very nice overviews, which is not just about recycling but also about how to maintain, repair and reuse things. All this is very much connected to local reduce, local production etc.

