

# Retrospect

**Retrospect of phenomenons and themes of all  
“From Best to Next Practice” symposiums  
held at Samsø**

**By Malene Lundén, Project leader Samsø  
Energy Academy**

We have been working on a retrospective spread, which illustrates what a symposium on Samsø, along with a dynamic network of former and current partners, can result in.

When looking at documentation, data processing and films, a wonderful and interesting picture appears. The retrospect clearly demonstrates that our partners' contributions in the symposium show us the way ahead – most of the recommendations given by our partners are implemented at Samsø Energy Academy today. In previous documentations of the symposiums, we have presented the Energy Academy's strategy, 2.0., and what this strategy implies for the symposium “From Best to Next Practice” III.

Welcome!

**Community** is a word with several meanings but often identical interpretations. When someone says the word “community” most people nod in agreement; Community – we do know what that is. But perhaps it is time to ask ourselves if we have the same thing in mind, when we talk about community?



From Best to  
Next Practice III

**Community =  
commons + community:**

We are inviting you to explore what are the virtues of community when dealing with fundamental aspects of life such as:

**Nature - education - Fossil Free Island**

**OVERALL PURPOSE OF “FROM BEST TO NEXT PRACTICE”**

In the retrospect you will find a description of our intention, the methods we use in our open and different forms of meeting and what Speaker's Corner is intended to be. We don't want our participants to focus on their own attainments – from the Energy Academy's perspective we want the participants to ask themselves: what is my contribution? We know from earlier symposiums that this is a good exercise!

### **BACKGROUND AND LEAD UP TO THE SYMPOSIUM**

In 2012, we started a pilot project where "study groups" were created all over Denmark and joined in a closed facebook group in which they could share knowledge from Fyn to Aarhus to Copenhagen to Samsø. The project was concluded with a symposium where Tor Nørretranders and Søren Hermansen introduced their new book "Commonities = Commons + Communities". Tor Nørretranders presented an illustrative exercise, where everyone in the room should tickle each other simultaneously! There has to be something both fun and annoying at stake!

As a lead up to this year's symposium, the Energy Academy has set up a virtual platform called "Fællesskabs-Salon" (community-salon), which you will find on facebook. This a new way for us to include the participants before meeting at the symposium. We drew inspiration for this idea of "dialogue salons" from Nadja Pass, who is a part of our network. She and her partner have set up dialogue-salons all over Denmark and created a great reference work, "BORGERLYST", which I can strongly recommend reading. From this work, the Energy Academy has drawn valuable experience and knowledge regarding the question: who is serving who when working with people and technology.

### **THEMES**

#### **2015 – NATURE, EDUCATION AND FOSSIL FREE ISLAND**

It is our experience at the Energy Academy that the dialogues call for broad questions and that it can prepare us – both new and old partners – for the three themes of this year's symposium: NATURE, EDUCATION AND FOSSIL FREE ISLAND. We want for our partners, across fields and functions, to get to know our intention in order for them to determine whether they want to meet us on Samsø.

### **FROM THE CITY TO THE COUNTRY**

Samsø is far away from the city – "away from the everyday life". We know that the journey to Samsø takes time. With the virtual "community-salon" we wish for you to clarify your contribution to the symposium and let this call you to Samsø. At the symposium you will be a vital participant and take part in asking questions and shaping content, which will determine the Energy Academy's direction in the future. Welcome to the third symposium held over the past six years titled "From Best to Next Practice".

## **WHAT IS A SYMPOSIUM?**

Symposium, (from greek *sympósiōn* - *sympótēs* drinking companion (sym- *sym*- + *po*-, s. of *pinein* to drink), *Symposion* is the title of the thoughts (in dialogue) by the Greek philosopher Plato (327-347 BC) about beauty in life.

A meeting or conference for the discussion of a subject, especially a meeting at which several speakers discuss a topic before an audience.

To us, the big difference between a traditional conference and a symposium is that the first often consists of generalized presentations interrupted by 5 minutes of questions from the audience. Our symposiums are all seminar sessions organised in such a way that at least 40 % of the time is spend on involving the audience (debate in the plenum, debate in smaller groups, reports from group work etc.)

It is our belief that the participants can learn a lot from each other and that they learn significantly more from this form of meeting than from listening to a monologue. Through the years we have received very positive feedback from our participants on this form of meeting. The symposium will be in English since our network comes from all over the world.

## Documentations and contributions

At the Energy Academy we have experienced that the documentations from the two previous symposiums are crucial opinion formers for our partners, the local population and the Energy Academy itself.

How do we at the Energy Academy keep on evolving ourselves and learn to listen to others' opinion of our work? What does it imply for Samsø to be a model community? What do we know about the Energy Academy internally? How do we keep up our spirit and focus on our work in collaboration with everyone on Samsø? The symposium evolves around three themes and in term of education, focus is on building capacity. In our view, education plays a crucial part in our relationship with the outside world. How do we learn to unlearn? How do we learn to re-learn? At the Energy Academy we know that we cannot undertake this task alone and due to our location on an island, our relations to others are crucial. It is also for this reason that a lot of us work part-time outside the island – to create a different and useful network. Moreover, we have learned that our work creates diversity and trust, which makes us and our partners willing to take risks – with or without an economic foundation at the outset.

### What should the documentation from symposium no. III consist of?

**How can we at the Energy Academy improve our materials/documentation?** If you have an idea or valuable experience, please do not hesitate to contact us so we can give back to the participant of “From Best to Next Practice” Symposium III and our network in general. Contact [ml@energiakademiet.dk](mailto:ml@energiakademiet.dk)

**Below you will find links to the documentation from the previous symposiums. It is our experience that documentation consisting of both text and film is useful.**

**Symposium I “From Best to Next Practice”** <http://energiinstituttet.dk/63/>

**Symposium II “From Best to Next Practice”** <http://issuu.com/nextpractice/docs/bestnxt2013-hr-ny?e=1>

**Symposium III “From Best to Next Practice” To be published after the symposium**

### Phenomenon

In its most general interpretation, the term phenomenon describes a fact or situation that is observed to exist or happen. However, the term is also used to describe a unique or unusual person, thing or situation.

In science, a phenomenon describes any observable situation no matter how normal it is or if it requires instruments to observe it or not.



## **The symposium**

The symposium will vary between process and run-ups via Speaker's Corner. It will be possible for you as a participant to present a topic both in process and plenum. The form is clear and since we are only 40 participants everyone will have a chance to make themselves heard. Samsø and the Energy Academy is a personal meeting and our intentions are:

**Contact - Learning - Relations – New ways - Beauty – attention to the gap - Provocation**

## **Hosting**

We are 12 staffers and as your hosts we all wish for you to leave Samsø enriched. Maybe you bring back a new corporation agreement? The symposium will be conducted by two new staffers at the Energy Academy. One is young, the other a little older. Both have a limited knowledge of Samsø Energy Academy and its history and culture. We are excited and happy that they both agreed to this task. We know they have the courage and strength to set up a solid frame in order for us as a group to work and be creative across fields.

The method will be a combination of Cirkels, Art of Hosting, World Café techniques and Open Space Technology and the method will be adjusted to the specific group we end up being in the days from 28-4 to 1.5. 2015. The themes will be introduced by both well-known people and the latest additions. Recaps and dialogue will be balanced in order for us as a group to lead the way and for the Energy Academy to set the form.

## **Facilitation**

**Mary Alice Arthur will facilitate the symposium.**

**Cüneyt Pala will guide us through the symposium graphically**

**Irina Papazu will provide documentation and work out a concentrate of the symposium.**

## **Speakerscorner**

**Søren Hermansen - Tor Nørretranders - Søren Steensgård - Malene Annikki Lundén - Uffe Elbæk - Jeppe Læssøe - Irina Papazu**

## **Location and accommodation**

**The symposium will take place at Samsø Energy Academy.**

**All participants will stay in Ballen in walking distance to the Energy Academy.**

**In case we have to be mindful of dietary considerations, please email us as soon as possible.**

**Welcome to Samsø -where the nights are dark and the days are silent.**

**See you at the Energy Academy!**

Symposium	<b>INTENTION</b> – background	<b>INPUT</b> – from Speakers corner and from participants		<b>OUTPUT</b> – ideas, ongoing projects and completed projects
<b>Best to Next 2011</b>	<p>The Next Practice symposium was intended to be a mind-booster to the practice within sustainable energy and to give an insight into some of the thoughts and perspectives that are emerging on the frontier of Energy, Sustainability, Action and Community.</p> <p>To ask ourselves and our partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do we keep moving forward? Are we looking in the right direction? Where should we move towards?</li> <li>• How do we present the ideas of what we are doing here to the surrounding world?</li> </ul> <p><b>Samsø Energy Academy, statutes</b></p> <p><b>§2 – The purpose of the association:</b></p> <p>The purpose of the association is to work towards developing and attracting <b>competences regarding energy saving and renewable energy</b> and convey knowledge of this.</p> <p>The association is to promote and encourage co-operation between citizens, businesses, public authorities and research and educational institutions with a view to <b>promote the development and use of renewable energy and energy savings.</b></p>	<p><b>SPEAKERS CORNER</b></p> <p><b>The road to and from Fukushima</b> Energy Democracy – Decentralisation</p> <p><b>Art and music as inspiration for a sustainable future</b> By synchronizing, singing in tune, we can, collectively create the next practise and achieve a sustainable future.</p>	<p><b>PARTICIPANTS</b></p> <p>“The Energy Academy should be present in other parts of Denmark”</p> <p>“The Energy Academy should structure the information/ data/findings”</p>	<p>➔ The Energy Academy’s Aarhus branch (2014)</p> <p>➔ The green embassy in Copenhagen (2014)</p> <p>➔ State of Green <a href="http://www.stateofgreen.com">www.stateofgreen.com</a></p> <p>➔ The energy Institute (2014) <a href="http://www.energiinstituttet.dk">www.energiinstituttet.dk</a></p>
		<p><b>Choice Awareness</b></p> <p>The debate on energy distribution is often framed and defined by a very narrow set of stakeholders presenting us with a very limited number of choices.</p> <p>Often, choices are selected by the people who are highly invested in the problem – not the solution - we need to be aware of “true choices”</p>	<p>Art and science – we should work together ”creating necessary synergies”</p>	<p>➔ “Kunsten at forske” (2013-2015) <a href="http://kunstnatforske.dk/">http://kunstnatforske.dk/</a></p> <p>➔ ”LIBRES !” film by Jean-Paul and Béatrice Jaud. <a href="http://www.libres-lefilm.com/">www.libres-lefilm.com/</a></p>
		<p><b>When the headquarter lost their head</b> When the Fukushima accident happened – when the catastrophe hit us - the headquarters did not know what to do.</p> <p>The power axis between state and market is being challenged. The new power is civil society.</p>	<p>“We should create a platform for learning/educational center – to gather around the campfire”</p> <p>“We should train more trainers in order to spread the knowledge”</p>	<p>➔ E-learning platform (2014)</p> <p>➔ Samsborg (2013) <a href="http://www.energiakademiet.dk/samsborg/">www.energiakademiet.dk/samsborg/</a></p> <p>➔ Nordic Pilot Education (2014 -2015)</p> <p>➔ The Island Institute <a href="http://www.islandinstitute.org">www.islandinstitute.org</a></p>
		<p><b>Next Practice</b></p> <p>Internal strategy: Samsø 2.0 – new visions External strategy: Samsø as fossil free island by 2030 – roots in the local community Commonities = Common + Communities</p>	<p>“We need to keep developing the story – after the first success story we have to write the difficult second story”</p> <p>”We should extent our international network and connect with universities”</p>	<p>➔ Further development of the strategic tools: Samsø 2.0 and Fossil free island 2030.</p> <p>➔ Collaboration with Aalborg University, Lund University, Delft University of Technology</p>

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<b>Best to Next 2013</b>	<p>At the Energy Academy we continuously need <b>feedback and feedforward</b> from our local community and from our national and global network in order to <b>make sure that we are on the right track</b>. 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 <b>must work on both the hardware and the software</b> to do that</p> <p><b><u>New statutes in 2014</u></b>  <b>§2 – The purpose of the association:</b></p> <p>The purpose of the association is to be instrumental in the development of <b>competencies within sustainable community</b> development and the communication of knowledge about holistic processes of co-operation.</p> <p>The association is to promote and encourage co-operation between citizens, businesses, public authorities and research and educational institutions on the basis of <b>Samsø as a sustainable local community</b>.</p>	<b>SPEAKERS CORNER</b> <p><b>Community power in Japan</b>          At a crossroad between an old paradigm (centralized, supply, hierarchy, fossil and nuke, economic growth) and a new paradigm (distributed, demand, network, renewable energy, fairness)          Nuclear power is declining, renewable energy is growing and community power is the way ahead.</p> <p><b>EU partnership</b>          The EU contains network opportunities that we should use, however, in the EU community ideas are in competition with ideas about more centralized solutions.</p> <p><b>Smart Communities</b>          We should qualify the locals. The components of smart societies are there, but we need to organize it.</p> <p><b>The global media landscape needs a reality check</b>          The Lomborg –syndrome          Solar panels are simply not sexy</p> <p><b>Transformative learning for sustainable living</b>          Teaching as a holistic experience.          You have to have the right place, an anchor, good teachers, and a content that inspires people if you want to be a lighthouse in the sustainability wilderness.          Don’t be an island on an island –keep expanding your view.</p>	<b>PARTICIPANTS</b> <p>“We should think more holistically. It’s not only about green growth but also about cultural, social and economic perspectives”</p> <p>“We should focus on and keep it local, skip some of the larger problems and keep our awareness on what we can do locally”</p> <p>“We need more bottom-up thinking and action”</p> <p>”We need capacity building – knowledge and practical skills”</p> <p>“How do we scale it up?”</p> <p>“”Which 25 PhD dissertations will be produced in 25 years?”</p>	<p>➔ Change of statutes: from a narrow focus on energy savings and renewable energy to a broader focus on sustainable local communities and a holistic process of co-operation.</p> <p>➔ “Local pioneer societies – a guidebook to sustainable development locally”</p> <p>➔ Samsø Ecological Agricultural Foundation (Samsø Økologisk Jordbrugsfond). The foundation is engaged in buying farms and farm land and subsequently leases this for organic farming.</p> <p>➔ Sustainability and carbon analysis on Samsø in 2011.  <a href="http://issuu.com/nextpractice/docs/kulstofrapport_pdf_highres_single/29?e=1">http://issuu.com/nextpractice/docs/kulstofrapport_pdf_highres_single/29?e=1</a></p> <p>➔ “Local pioneer societies – a guidebook to sustainable development locally”</p> <p>➔ Night Hawks – EU project with 8 European partners. Energy savings on a larger scale.  <a href="http://www.night-hawks.eu/denmark/">www.night-hawks.eu/denmark/</a></p> <p>➔ Smilegov – multilevel governance in the area of energy and climate change  <a href="http://www.sustainableislands.eu/">www.sustainableislands.eu/</a></p> <p>➔ Aarhus Capital of culture 2017: vision of making sustainability a core value and programme track for the Capital of Culture.  <a href="http://www.aarhus2017.dk/en">/www.aarhus2017.dk/en</a></p> <p><a href="http://issuu.com/nextpractice/docs/bestnxt2013-hr-ny/33?e=1">http://issuu.com/nextpractice/docs/bestnxt2013-hr-ny/33?e=1</a>  <a href="http://energiakademiet.dk/smagsproever-paa-en-ph-d-afhandling-om-samsoe/">http://energiakademiet.dk/smagsproever-paa-en-ph-d-afhandling-om-samsoe/</a></p>

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<b>Best to Next 2015</b>	<p>In the 2015 symposium, we invite the participants – both those who already know the work done at the Energy Academy and those with a new interest in the place – to be a part of a project collaboration. We wish to establish contacts, communication and fertile soil for our network in the long run. It is our experience that through this continued, persistent work good stories are created. The energy Academy is constantly working on our standards regarding the creation of new possibilities and development within Nature – Education – Fossil free Island.</p> <p><b>Nature</b> What are the future commonities? Food – Energy – In balance with urbanization? What about the carbon cycle?</p> <p><b>Education</b> What kind of culture exists in regard to general education and the foundation for sustainability? What kind of education do we need in regard to sustainable development? Will it pay off?</p> <p><b>Fossil free Island</b> How do we go for the highest and not the lowest hanging fruits? What is the most challenging part of a transition to fossil fuel independence?</p>	<p><b>SPEAKERS CORNER</b></p> <p>Facebook Salon (in Danish) – selected participants are writing blogs as a prelude to the symposium</p> <p>Host Mary Alice Arthur <a href="http://getsoaring.com/">http://getsoaring.com/</a></p>	<b>PARTICIPANTS</b>  155 members of the facebook salon	Meeting in a virtual space and share our knowledge about: What is Samsø Energy Academy working on? Who should we work with and what should we work on? What has worked for Samsø and the local population the past 17 years?	
			<p><b>Nature</b> Tor Nørretranders <a href="http://www.tor.dk/da/">http://www.tor.dk/da/</a></p>	Continues after the symposium	Continues after the symposium
			<p>Søren Hermansen <a href="http://11erfolket.moreto come.dk/soren-hermansen-malene-lunden/">http://11erfolket.moreto come.dk/soren-hermansen-malene-lunden/</a></p>	Continues after the symposium	Continues after the symposium
			<p><b>Education</b> Jeppe Læssø <a href="http://pure.au.dk/portal/en/persons/jeppe-laessoee%28be57e7ce-8db5-4746-b1ae-bc036c8c6684%29/more.html">http://pure.au.dk/portal/en/persons/jeppe-laessoee%28be57e7ce-8db5-4746-b1ae-bc036c8c6684%29/more.html</a></p>	Continues after the symposium	Continues after the symposium
			<p>Uffe Elbæk <a href="http://da.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uffe_Elb%C3%A6k">http://da.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uffe_Elb%C3%A6k</a></p>	Continues after the symposium	Continues after the symposium
			<p>Malene Lundén <a href="http://11erfolket.moreto come.dk/soren-hermansen-malene-lunden/">http://11erfolket.moreto come.dk/soren-hermansen-malene-lunden/</a></p> <p><b>Fossil free Island</b> Samsø Municipality - Søren Steensgård <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/pub/s%C3%B8ren-stensgaard/2/430/365">https://www.linkedin.com/pub/s%C3%B8ren-stensgaard/2/430/365</a></p> <p>Iida Tetsunari - Community power <a href="https://vimeo.com/77585517">https://vimeo.com/77585517</a></p>	Continues after the symposium	Continues after the symposium