



Barriers and Recommendations to Innovative Models for Wind Power

Louise Krog¹, Karl Sperling¹ and Henrik Lund¹
¹Department of Planning, Aalborg University, Aalborg, Denmark

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Introduction

Local ownership models have proven to be an important way to avoid local resistance to onshore wind turbines. As wind power expands into offshore and nearshore wind farms, such ownership models become of increasing importance, while also undergoing further development.

This study uses the **Choice Awareness** theory to examine some of the barriers connected to the implementation of these new ownership models and presents recommendations to overcome such barriers.

Based on the case of an NGO's attempt to bid for a tender for nearshore wind turbines, it is shown how the central administration prevents new innovative ownership models from entering the tender. A strong path dependency has led to a conscious or unconscious elimination of projects based on organizational structures that do not fit the definition of large energy companies. As a result of this, we develop three recommendations for policy changes with the aim to secure equal possibilities for actors involved in nearshore wind power tenders.

Methodology

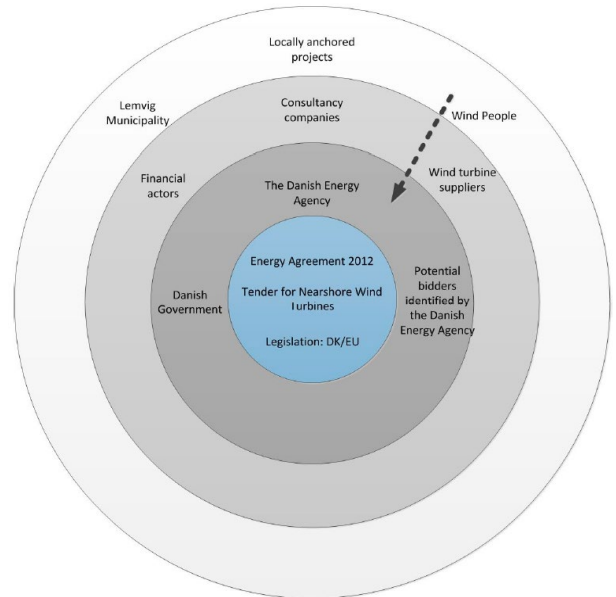
The analysis in this paper is based on a case study of the process around a grassroots organization's attempt to bid for a tender for nearshore wind turbines in Denmark.

Critical Case Study

The **Wind & Welfare project** has a strategic importance in terms of assessing the actual possibilities for projects based predominantly on community and shared ownership to participate in large energy tenders in Denmark. The Wind & Welfare case is an example of how the central administration responds to new actors and bottom-up projects in a market that is increasingly dominated by large energy companies.

Findings

The figure shows actors in the tender for 350 MW nearshore wind turbines in Denmark, mapped in relation to how closely they are connected to the Danish Energy Agency and thereby the decision making in the tender process. The closer the actors are placed to the blue inner circle, the more likely they are to be included in the tender process.



Recommendations

- The involvement of actors, including locally anchored actors, should be broadened in the development of future tenders for nearshore wind power in Denmark. **This implies that a broad variety of actors are invited to join the process at an early stage.** This could, e.g., be done by inviting relevant NGOs to join the decision-making processes in relation to the specific tender rules.
- **Tender rules should be defined in a way that does not exclude locally anchored projects.** It is important that the different qualification criteria do not exclude certain actors just based on their organizational set-up. This means that economic requirements should be defined in a way that makes sure that potential bidders have the needed financial stability to realize the project, but without excluding certain ownership models. Furthermore, it is important that the timeframe leaves enough room for new actors to organize their projects.
- **A support scheme and secretariat should support actors in preliminary analyses,** feasibility studies, etc. New actors would not have the same professional network as already established actors on the market. For new actors to be able to develop realistic projects, a central support scheme that supplies funding to gain the needed knowledge could bridge this gap. Such a support scheme could specifically target non-profit actors or organizational set-ups with a high share of local ownership and could entail a central secretariat providing advice to these projects.

Contact

Louise Krog (Louise@plan.aau.dk), PostDoc, Department of Planning, Aalborg University.
Karl Sperling (Karl@plan.aau.dk), Associate Professor, Department of Planning, Aalborg University.
Henrik Lund (Lund@plan.aau.dk), Professor, Department of Planning, Aalborg University.