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**Loenen Energy Neutral**

Category

Cities, communities and regions

Location

Loenen, the Netherlands

**Trust a village to achieve real change!**

A Dutch village is forging a path towards energy neutrality by 2050 through a self-sustaining and locally-focused renewable energy fund.

After winning a sustainability competition in 2013, the citizens of Loenen used the prize money to establish a local sustainable energy fund with the goal of making their village energy neutral by 2050. A total of 80 projects have since been implemented by the vast majority of households in the village, with some 20 projects on the waiting list. Solar panels have been installed and buildings insulated. The idea is for energy savings to flow back into the fund, ensuring that it continues to grow.

There is also a social aspect to the project. Villagers have been brought together in a long-term, mutually-beneficial scheme that promises economic as well as environmental improvement. Educational projects have also been launched at the primary school to encourage energy awareness. In this way, Loenen provides an excellent example of how bottom-up energy transition offers numerous benefits.

Additional info

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