



## EMPOWER 2.0 Declaration

In the Interreg NSR project EMPOWER2.0 partners have demonstrated on how to accelerate the empowerment of citizens to become active energy citizens. This has led to an increase of energy awareness and renewable energy production, and hence has reduced the environmental footprint in the North Sea Region.

Local and regional authorities can actively contribute to further lower the threshold for citizens to start energy communities. To accomplish this, it is recommended to<sup>1</sup>:

1. Actively reach out to citizens and communities to inform them via a variety of channels, taking care to leave no one behind in the possibilities for a sustainable transition to green energy and self-efficacy.
2. Facilitate access to reliable and independent platforms for information on technical solutions, such as the EMPOWER2.0 toolkit.
3. Reduce the administrative burden for permits for small local energy initiatives.
4. Lower financial thresholds for instance by supporting in required start-up capital or providing small funding opportunities

<sup>1</sup> See recommendations for local policy makers for full text

5. Develop an integrated approach for engaging citizens in the energy transition in new developments in public planning and design.

### Choose

We support the recommendations delivered in the Interreg NSR EMPOWER2.0 project and will actively engage in the fulfilment of these recommendations.

### Or

We will continue our work inspired by the recommendations of the Interreg NSR EMPOWER2.0 project by.....<give your own focus point>

Organisation

Signature

Name

Date

### Facts

EMPOWER2.0 is receiving funding from the North Sea Region programme, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund. Also the Province of North Holland (NL) and the Province of West-Flanders (BE) is offering financial support.

### Interreg North Sea Region programme

Interreg North Sea Region is a European Territorial Cooperation Programme facilitating transnational cooperation between 49 regions in seven countries (UK, The Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Denmark) by the North Sea. The Programme is part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund.

The overall objective is to support development and foster sustained economic growth across the North Sea region. In order to realize this, projects that directly contribute to one of the specific objectives (such as Stimulating the green economy) can be part-financed for up to 60 % of their total project budget.

### More information?

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