



## **cVPP: community-based Virtual Power Plant Newsletter N°7**

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# 5th cVPP Partnership meeting in Antwerp and Westerlo, Belgium



**The 5th partner meeting of cVPP (Community-based Virtual PowerPlant) took place between 13th and 16th November 2019 in Antwerpen and Westerlo. The partners were warmly welcomed by the Belgian partner Kamp C.**

Project cVPP ends in September 2020, this meeting is the penultimate time that all partners come together. Central items were the realisations of a cVPP in Belgium, the Netherlands and Ireland. The partners gave an update on the communities in their country that want to take a first step towards a cVPP. In the final phase of the project a long-term vision for these cVPPs will be drawn up. Professor Geert Deconick of KU Leuven, who has been doing research on energy supply and demand for ten years, was invited as a guest speaker. He spoke about his research and the lessons

learned that can now be applied in the cVPPs. Replication is in full swing. Much of the work with the communities has been completed. Ireland and Belgium have organised their competitions and the winners are known. The winners of the Open Call organised by Kamp C were also invited. For these communities and the partners, this was the perfect opportunity to get to know each other. In this newsletter you can read the story of Kamp C and how the three winning communities were reached.

The Mobilization and Replication (MoRe) model, which translates the essence and complexity of a cVPP, is in the final stages of completion and will soon be tested by the winning communities in interactive workshops. It will serve as a tool for initiators when starting up a cVPP and when creating the social and technical design.



# Spotlight on Kamp C



Kamp C is the leading centre for sustainability and innovation in construction.

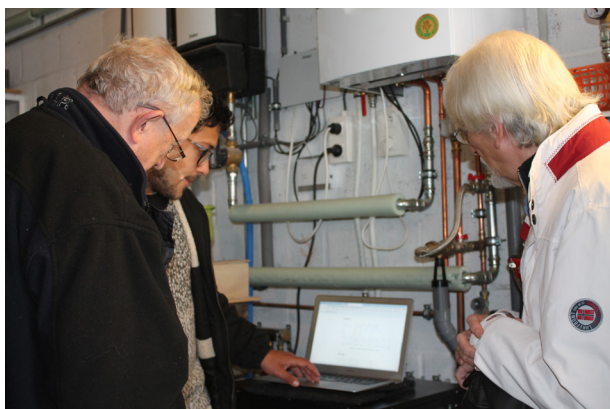
Kamp C aims to accelerate the transition to a sustainable society by focusing on two principles: sustainability and innovation

## What does Kamp C represent?

Kamp C is strongly driven by vision. Kamp C is looking to engage its strengths in both sustainability and innovation. Kamp C is not interested in following issues that are already well developed, but is focusing on areas that need to evolve and giving them a helping hand in order to develop further. Some examples are the renovation coaches, 3D printing in construction, circular construction, as well as participation tools such as the Ge-WOONtebreker (breaking habits). Collaboration with a wide range of target groups is important in this respect. Each collaboration is unique in itself and forms the Kamp C's contribution. For example, it is not only experts, but also schools that give substance to Kamp C's educational collaborations. This also applies to the construction sector. Kamp C is playing here a guiding role, assisting the building sector in its efforts to become driven by sustainability and be ready to take on disruptive innovations. Circular construction is one of these areas.

*During the Daring Trajectory, Kamp C organized a trip to two inspiring examples:*

- *Buurzame Stroom in the Dampoort & Sint-Amandsberg in Ghent | a project of cVPP partner EnerGent (photo left)*
- *Cohousing Kerselaar in Oostakker (photo right)*



## cVPP in the province of Antwerp

The cVPP project fits perfectly into this vision: supporting citizens to grow from consumers to prosumers who not only generate their own energy but also store and manage it locally. In the cVPP project, Kamp C looked for communities that wanted to roll out a VPP that is community-based, i.e. supported by a citizens' initiative. Such a bottom-up approach would lead to greater participation and influence of the local community. It also stimulates awareness and public involvement in the energy transition. cVPP thus gives a local community the opportunity to meet its own energy needs and to experiment with the exchange, storage and management of renewable energy.



Met steun van

**Provincie  
Antwerpen**

## Dream-Dare-Do trajectory

In order to inspire and activate communities in the province of Antwerp, Kamp C started the Dream-Dare-Do trajectory in 2019.

Kamp C wanted to engage citizens in the project, make them aware of the Belgian energy market and inform them about the role they can play in it.

At the end of the project, a guide will be drawn up for communities, containing the most important findings on how to start-up a cVPP roll it out to the rest of NWE and EU by disseminating business plans and guidelines.



# Dream, Dare and Do trajectory

Collectively generating and consuming energy in Belgium is (for the time being) quite an arduous task. There are numerous obstacles (technical, legal, social, financial and institutional) that make it difficult to set up your own virtual power plant. In order to gain insight into what is going on among citizens and communities, Kamp C, together with Tri.Zone, organised the Dream-Dare-Do series in the community-based Virtual Power Plant project. This trajectory went beyond informing and inspiring. The ultimate goal was to guide three communities towards drawing up a roadmap to their own cVPP.



## The Power of Dreams

During the Dream Days on 12th and 30th March 2019, Kamp C welcomed more than 70 participants - citizens who, alone or in group, want to put their shoulders to the wheel towards energy transition. The Dream Days were an important step in the further design of the trajectory. All the dreams shared served as a springboard to the next step, the Dare Days. Kamp C invited many fascinating speakers: dr. Ruth Mourik (DuneWorks), Danny Gladines (Zonnewind energy cooperative), Mieke Hesemans (Greenpulse), Jacob Demeyer (Waesland Co-housing), Luc Van Summeren (TU/e), Sophie Loots (ZuidtrAnt), Koen Vandewalle (Kaseco Architects) and Mark Bellinkx (Kontich Stroomt!) shared their story.

### Dreams shared:

"Generating energy together with the 3 natural resources we have wind, sun, water and store and consume in a smart way!"  
"My municipality is energy independent!"  
"Energy for all, sustainable and affordable!" or  
"Developing a cVPP in a neighbourhood together with social tenants, schools and other residents".



### Questions raised:

"How do you remove the barriers to starting a cVPP project in practice? Who can support citizens in this? Can you start a project in your own neighbourhood and what do you need?"  
"How can we make the energy transition tangible and affordable for everyone?"  
"What actors do you need inside and outside your group? Who is involved?"  
"How can you work with energy cooperatives?"  
"What is the role of local authorities?"

## And now Dare!

The dreams and associated questions formed the basis of the 2-day Dare phase "Working together for energy transition", with the ultimate goal of creating a roadmap of potential that the community can work with. This map of potential provided insight into who, what and how a community can set up a virtual power plant.

Who are the players in the community? What can their role be? What collaborations do you need external and internal? What is feasible at the moment and what are your wishes?

On the second Dare Day, the starting communities continued to work on their map of potential and were given the space to draw up their own roadmap.

Speakers and experts responded to their dreams and questions: dr. Ruth Mourik (DuneWorks), Jeroen Baets (EnerGent), Jasper Kroondijk (Qirion), Alex Polfliet (Zero Energy Solutions), Kris Moonen (Rescoop VL), Wouter Cyx (Kelvin Solutions) and Jef Van Eyck (Campina Energy).

After the Dare Days, it was time to get to work effectively. All interested communities were given the opportunity to submit their proposal for a cVPP at Kamp C and win €2000 as well as assistance in starting up.

# The Open Call



*Presentation of the prize to the winning communities by Kathleen Helsens, Provincial Executive of Antwerp in the presence of Matthias Verhegge (Interreg NWE).*

**The Open Call was a competition that emerged from the Dream-Dare-Do trajectory and ended in September. The three winners, chosen by the cVPP partners, were announced during the press event on 14th November. Energy co-operations ZuidtrAnt and Klimaan as well as the cohousing group BM Gummaar submitted their proposals on how they would like to establish a cVPP as a community.**

## 1. ZuidtrAnt and Stalinsstraat

The residents of the Stalinsstraat in Deurne want to focus on energy-sharing. Together with knowledge partners ZuidtrAnt, Ecohuis, the innovation coach and Woonhaven social-housing, they are looking for roofs on which solar panels can be installed. The proceeds from these panels will then be shared with residents whose roofs are not suitable for installation. In order to store the surplus of the generated energy, they are looking at whether a salt water battery can offer a solution. In this way, the sun is there for everyone and the neighbourhood for each other.

Energy sharing also means focusing on e-mobility. For example, it will be investigated whether it is possible to buy a shared electric cargo bike and car.

## 2. Klimaan

“Generating and consuming energy together, as school, with your neighbourhood and your municipality” is the starting point of the submitted

project proposal of Klimaan CV. Klimaan CV is an enthusiastic starting cooperative from the region of Mechelen, originated from the citizens’ movement Klimaan vzw with the goal to realize tangible, profitable and sustainable projects with 100% direct citizen participation.

Currently Klimaan CV together with ZuidtrAnt cv-ba-so is realizing solar panels on the roofs of the town hall and the library of Bonheiden. With their project proposal Klimaan also wants to involve the schools in Bonheiden in the solar project. Klimaan focuses not only on the school community itself, teachers, parents and of course the pupils, but also on the neighbourhood around it.

## 3. BM Gummaar

Gummarushof is a cohousing company from Mechelen that is converting an old school into six houses, 17 apartments and communal areas. They choose to live future-safe by building Near-Zero-Energy, be energy efficient and CO2 free. They will do this by means of geothermal drilling connected to a mini heat grid with individual heat pumps, electrically supported by PV solar panels. The cVPP project gives them the opportunity to experiment with the exchange, storage and management of renewable energy. Cohousing is actually in itself an energy-efficient form of living, by choosing to living smaller and more compact, close to the centre, sharing an energy-efficient vehicle and common areas such as laundry room, guest rooms, workshop, multi-purpose room and garden.

the remaining five submissions ...

#### 4. Buurtsalon Vaart in Turnhout

"With fewer cars in Turnhout Centre, hurray!"  
By sharing the rickshaw and the cargo-bike and running on renewable energy.

#### 5. Cohousing Ekelen in Herentals

"Independence from the grid is not a must for us. What we do want is to contribute to an energy balance, together with the broader neighbourhood".

#### 6. Zonnewind CVBA / Zandhoven - Zoersel

"We want to retain and uphold energy accessibility for every inhabitant of the municipality".

#### 7. Energieteam Beerse

"Collective energy production is an important element in achieving the climate targets".

#### 8. Zonnewijzer / Wijmaal / Leuven

"We, the committed parents of the school Zonnewijzer want to contribute to the protection of the climate with our actions".

La Pile | The electricity of tomorrow according to 14 pioneers



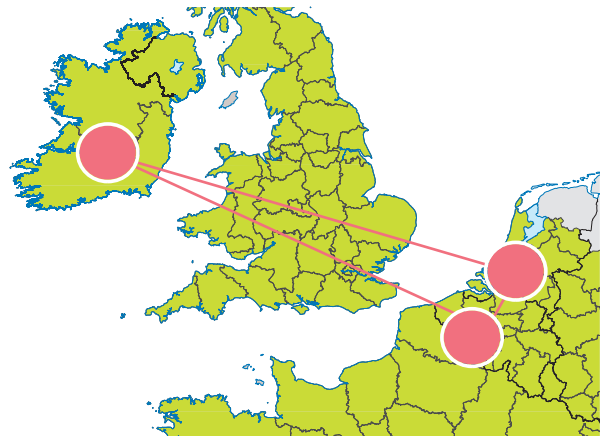
The exhibition La Pile is an initiative of City Mine(d). It is a project that brings people together to reinvent electricity in the city. To inspire you to get your hands dirty, La Pile has identified 14 pioneers of electricity and presents their achievements, ambitions and challenges.

This temporary exhibition at Kamp C highlights experiences and the wonders of electricity as a source of inspiration to take 'power' into your own hands.

[read more](#)

### cVPP-website

Want to know more about cVPP?  
Visit the [cVPP-website](#)



The cVPP Partnership network

### Project facts

September 2017 till September 2019  
€ 6.11 million total project budget  
€ 3.66 million funded by ERDF

## Upcoming Events

- Final event of Buurzame Stroom, EnerGent, on **29th January 2020**, in Ghent.
- cVPP workshop at European Citizen Energy Conference 2020 and REScoop.eu | General Assembly, in Frankfurt, Germany, **23rd – 25th April 2020**.
- The 6th and final cVPP partnership meeting will take place in Loenen, The Netherlands, **10th – 12th June 2020**.
- cVPP will be present at EUSEW - European Sustainable Energy Week, in Brussels, **22nd – 26th June 2020** with a cVPP training session.

### Kamp C

Would you like to learn more about Kamp C?  
Visit [www.kampc.be](http://www.kampc.be)

For more information on **the Dream, Dare and Do trajectory** [read more](#) or contact us:

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#cVPPproject



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