How LEEUWARDEN got its sustainable energy investment concept funded
As the capital and largest city of Fryslân in the Netherlands, Leeuwarden is the economic heart of the region. Much of the city’s economic activity takes place in Leeuwarden’s business parks, such as De Zwette.

Recently, De Zwette has been facing problems of network congestion, which prevents new businesses from joining and thus affecting the local economy. Additionally, it is preventing existing businesses to return sustainable energy produced by their solar panels back to the grid, which is delaying the local energy transition.

The municipality of Leeuwarden will use EUCF funding to tackle the problem of net congestion in its business park De Zwette.
The project and EUCF application

To address the challenges on De Zwette, Leeuwarden wants to examine whether it would be feasible to work with local battery solutions. By installing a local battery and a communally-owned battery, (new) businesses can be linked to the grid and return their sustainable Solar Energy back into it.

This would not burden the local energy grid any further, making sure that new businesses can settle in the business park in the long term.

In addition, existing businesses can continue with the installation of solar panels that they had foreseen. The EUCF therefore offers Leeuwarden a kick-start to develop solutions for the challenges it faces.

Replication potential

Business Parks all over the Netherlands and Europe face the same challenge of net congestion.

This is seriously damaging the energy transition, as business parks are very well suited for the installation of solar panels (flat roofs, large open spaces, financial stimuli for entrepreneurs).

A local battery-system that would make sure the financial stimuli to install solar panels remain intact, could be replicated to all business parks facing the same problems in the EU.

TIPS FROM THE PROJECT LEADER

Be solution-oriented when developing your EUCF-application, and prove your eagerness to work with partners all across Europe!

ANKE HOEKSTRA
Coordinator
European Affairs
Municipality of Leeuwarden
Expected size of total investment

**EXPECTED ENERGY SAVINGS, ENERGY PRODUCTION AND CO₂ SAVINGS**

**48** Million €

**40** GWh/year

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY PRODUCTIONS

**6** GWh/year

ENERGY SAVINGS

**45 240** t of CO₂

EQUIVALENT/YEAR
Application Success Factors

The expected investment size is ambitious in relation to the other submitted applications in the regional call and to the local context, particularly due to the high absolute investment size and high investment per capita ratio.

The application is very well aligned with EUCF objectives, showing communally-owned smart batteries in a business park supported by a strong governance structure and engagement strategy. Moreover, the replication is very well presented and highlights how the proposed investment project can be replicated mainly in the Netherlands but also in Europe.

The proposed approach is particularly innovative due to a communally owned energy storage solution in which decentralized renewable energy generation can be stored locally in order to mitigate grid scarcity. The expected energy savings and mainly renewable energy production of the investment project are high compared to the other applications in the regional call and to the local context. Energy savings are of lower ambition in the local context, but CO2 emissions reduction is significant.

Criterion stakeholder engagement is very well addressed, describing for each stakeholder how they will be involved, what will be their expectation and what do they bring to the investment concept. The presented strategy for stakeholder engagement is coherent and adequate to the proposed investment concept due to clearly identified actors, and active communication planned through network organisations.