



The Green House of Køge

- an example of a local Agenda 21-centre, that combines environment and health with cultural and social activities



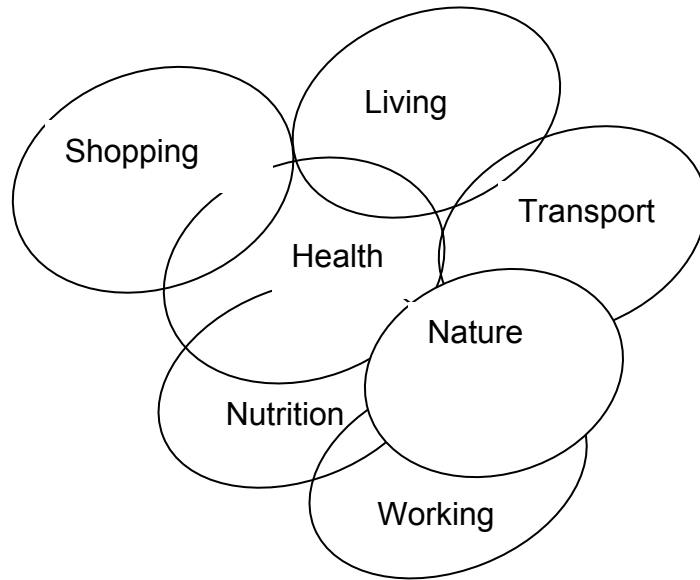
Agenda 21 has resulted in social, economical and environmental sustainable projects of development all over the world.

In Denmark the work has been started as government institutions, but is now separated from the original authorities and organised in Agenda 21 centres.

”The Green House”

is an Agenda 21 Centre founded in Køge in 1997. The House is an NGO financed partly by the municipality of Køge, by Energy Companies and users

Environmental sustainability



The Green House is working with health as an integrated part of environmental sustainability.

All environmental issues also influences our health. Health also influences the environmental themes for The Green House.

A persons everyday life is not focused only on health, nature or e.g. transport. It is a mix of many things.



Health – as well being?

- Focus on the good lives
- Influence of the agenda
- Power to act
- Social learning



The relation between health and environment

According to WHO's health's map health is dependent of the following activities:

- Living
- Working
- Shopping
- Moving
- Playing
- Social learning

In The Green House all the activities are related to these aspects.



Three examples of integrating environment and health:

1. “Exchange of services Club”

Aim: The inhabitants in a big housing block help each other with all sorts of everyday doings and are re-using things from the household.

The club makes it eligible and not intimidating to offer and take help from each other.

Process:

- Few residents took contact with The Green House.
- Meeting for all residential in the block.
- Establishment of the exchange club.
- Register all resources and services offered from the members in the club e.g. shopping, repairing bike/furniture's, computer hotline.

Result: Social network, re-use of materials, low technology and local solutions to problems.



2. COW CLUB

Aim: Nature conservation, quality and healthy meet, family activity, social network.

Process:

Citizens was invited to a meeting by The Green House.

- They established themselves in a club and was offered a field for the cows to grass on.
- They look after the cows, they bring them to the slaughter and they eat the meet.

Result: 20 families are engaged in running the cow club and learn about organic production, food and provide them selves physical and mental pleasure. The cows will restore an important nature biotop





3. Car sharing



Join the carsharing!

“Køge Delebil” – a carsharing project - is a non-profit organisation founded in 2000.

Aim: to give citizens and firms access to community-cars.

The administration of Køge Delebil is The Green House. .

Transnationals links

The Green House is coordinating a large scale traffic competence project.

10 different cities and local councils all over Europe have agreed to focus on the problem of personal transportation.

The ten cities has filed a common project description to the European union.

Aim: To change peoples mobility behavior and make the choice of transport mode more healthy and energy efficient.

Process: involve and engage residents in the issue of transport, environment and health. Use the method of mobility management, transport plans and engagement in solutions. What will users suggest?

Result: The project has just started. Inhabitants will be involved to develop there own ideas to test, e.g.. car sharing, more cycling, carefree zones around the school and so on.

Who are involved in The Green Houses activities?

Professionelle

- Expert activist
- Members of local political parties
- Members of local associations

Ad hoc participation

- Community activists
- Particular interests related to:
 - work and studies
 - living
 - pendling
 - hobby

The Green House secretariat of facilitating professionals is important



Local representatives from

- Schools
- Social institutions
- Institutions for children
- Sport & Cultural organisations
- Networks

Local business and firms

- Green shops and special brands/labels
- Future buildings
- New neighbourhoods



The Green House as governance network

“It is people’s dignity and actions that holds the key to the future!”

- But bottom up-practises needs a robust top down frame
- national and local government support and a strong governance network

The Green House is a lot more than a building....



Lesson we have learnt – what works?

- ❖ Every-day-lives is the frame for commitment and changing
- ❖ Learning in practice community as face to-face instead of a individual focus are powerful
- ❖ Different way's of participation from very active to the legitimate remote participants
- ❖ You can constructs stories and facilitates networks by building networks
- ❖ A longlasting governance network can help to qualify policy goals
- ❖ Political endorsement of the bottom up proces
- ❖ A mix of a known annual budget, supports and funds



- The homepage of “The Green House” in Køge:
<http://www.detgroennehus.dk/dk/default.asp>
- “Drivkraft – fortællinger i ord og billeder” af filosof Kirstine Andersen og fotograf Marcel Rahner, Køge Kommune, 2007.
<http://www.koege.dk/300732>

So what for our workshop?

- How to create the conditions for local participation?
- How can networks and democratic governance endorse community of practice and learning?
- What is needed to act and learn related to wellbeing and sustainability?

