

Scaling citizen participation through local energy initiatives

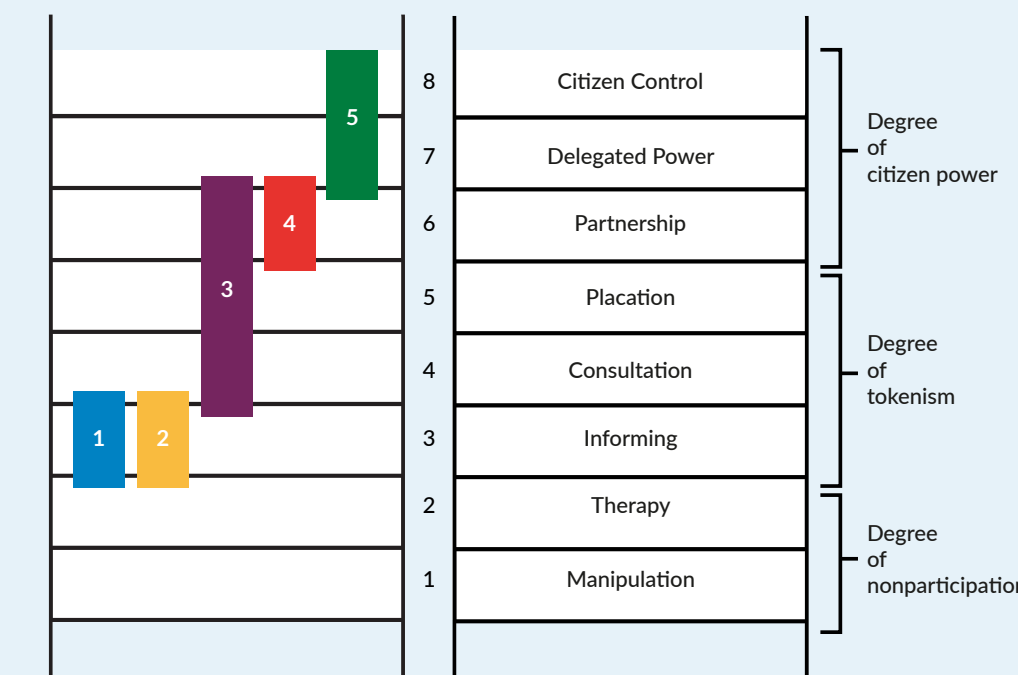
Insights in the roles and contribution of the local energy initiatives in The Hague and a strategy and action repertoire for the municipality of The Hague.

The five defined roles for local energy initiatives in The Hague

Out of the results five roles were defined for the local energy initiatives in The Hague. These five roles stimulate the citizens to participate in the Energy Transition on different levels of the citizen participation ladder.



1. In the first place, the local energy initiatives create awareness about the Energy Transition among the citizen in their neighborhood.
2. Secondly, the initiative provide the citizen with action perspective. They make citizens aware of the feasible intervention they can do themselves or develop collective projects the citizens can join.
3. Thirdly, the initiatives collaborate with the municipality to advise each other and to promote and support each others projects.
4. Fourthly, the initiative want to have a voice at the table in the discussion about future energy solutions for the neighborhood. In this way they want to provide citizen with a voice and an active spot in the Energy Transition discussion.
5. Lastly, the initiatives also want the citizens to gain an active spot in the future energy system. It does that by executing and/or owning a part of the future energy system together with citizens. Each initiative performs its own set of roles which depends on their activities, goals and ambitions.



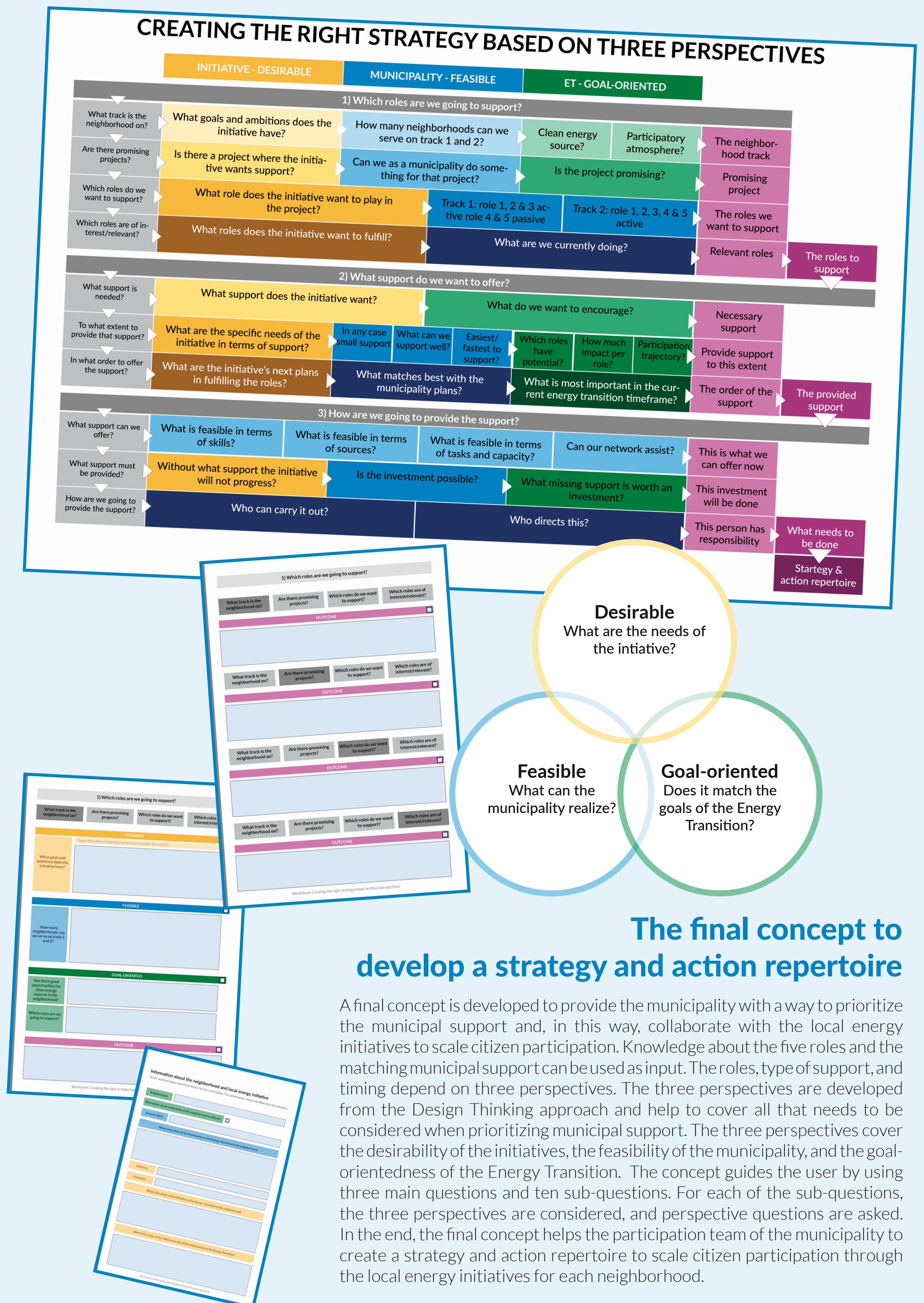
The potential of the contribution of the local energy initiatives to the Energy Transition

The potential of the initiatives' contribution is showing when looking at the interaction between the initiatives and institutions, the connection to Institutional Change. The initiatives influence the current energy system and also have the ambition to change the system. Overall, the initiatives want to let the citizens have an active role in as well the discussion about the Energy Transition as in the future energy system itself.



However, the full potential is not achieved because of three reasons:

1. The missing shared vision creates an nonoptimal stakeholder ecosystem.
2. This relationship with the municipality is undefined and inconsistent and the initiatives even feel misinterpreted by the municipality.
3. Several small challenges as reaching people, keeping the initiative alive and representativeness.



The final concept to develop a strategy and action repertoire

A final concept is developed to provide the municipality with a way to prioritize the municipal support and, in this way, collaborate with the local energy initiatives to scale citizen participation. Knowledge about the five roles and the matching municipal support can be used as input. The roles, type of support, and timing depend on three perspectives. The three perspectives are developed from the Design Thinking approach and help to cover all that needs to be considered when prioritizing municipal support. The three perspectives cover the desirability of the initiatives, the feasibility of the municipality, and the goal-orientedness of the Energy Transition. The concept guides the user by using three main questions and ten sub-questions. For each of the sub-questions, the three perspectives are considered, and perspective questions are asked. In the end, the final concept helps the participation team of the municipality to create a strategy and action repertoire to scale citizen participation through the local energy initiatives for each neighborhood.

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