



# The Swedish Regional Energy Agencies: Past, Present and Future

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# **The Swedish regional energy agencies**

## **Swedish Energy Agency**

- Responsible for issues regarding consumption and supply of Energy
- Lack regional representation of its own
- Long history of working together with scientists, the public sector and trade associations

## **Regional energy agencies**

- 15 regional energy agencies in Sweden
- Work for an increasing use of renewable energy and an efficient use of energy at a regional level
- Different kinds of ownership and differences in core funding

## **County administrative boards**

- Coordinates energy and climate work at local and regional level since 2008

# Past

- Cooperation since 2003.
- Coordination and education of the municipal energy and climate advisory service.
- Regional energy actors between 2004 – 2014. However, unclear description regarding the role.
- Attend calls for tender and run EU-financed projects.
- In 2008, the County Administrative Boards got the mandate to coordinate and run energy and climate work at local and regional level.

# Present

- *“At the time the National Regional Fund Programme was presented, representatives from the regional energy agencies and the County Administrative Boards were invited to a meeting. It was a historical meeting. (...) We produced a document stating that the County Administrative Boards have a coordinating role and the regional energy agencies have an operational and supporting role at the regional level. (...) The dialogue developed rapidly and today [December 2016], the dialogue and the collaboration between the Swedish Energy Agency, the regional energy agencies and the County Administrative Boards has improved significantly*


Director of the Energy Agencies of Sweden

# Present

- The regional energy agencies are responsible to run several EU-funded projects together with the Swedish Energy Agency
- The projects has contributed to develop the collaboration between the Swedish energy agency and the regional energy agencies.
- 2016, new Government decree on financial support for the municipal energy and climate advisory service.
- Continue to attend calls for tender and run EU-financed projects.

# Future

- Deepen the three-party collaboration even more.
  - Leading
  - Coordinating
  - Operational
- The Swedish Energy Agency could use the regional energy agencies as an extension of the work
  - Manage projects
  - Distribute information
  - Return information about regional conditions

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- *“As a central agency, we are not sufficient enough to power the policy instruments successfully by our self, but if we have regional energy agencies there is nothing they [the regional energy agencies] could not do.”*

Head of Unit at the Swedish Energy Agency

- *“I wish that we in the future could develop more cooperation where the regional energy agencies’ function is an extension of the activities of the Swedish Energy Agency, and where they could use us for local and regional knowledge and distribution of information and activities.”*

Director of the Energy Agencies of Sweden



- *An important part of being a regional energy agency is to know your market. That is where they can be used. They are extensions that know their region. If you have a contact base and a register of consumers, you can use it for many different projects.”*
- *“We should not use them just to convey information [...] The most important is that they can deliver information about existing [regional] challenges. If they know their market well, then they know what kind of product development we [the Swedish Energy Agency] should use. Then we can inform policy makers about real challenges.*

Head of Unit at the Swedish Energy Agency



# Discussion

- How do the regional energy agencies work in your countries?  
How have they developed the collaboration between the national and regional level in regards to energy efficiency?
- What methods have you identified as successful to bring back knowledge from the regional level to the national level and finally policy-level?