

# THREE ISLANDS RECEIVE THE EUROPEAN UNION PRIZE FOR INNOVATIVE RENEWABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS

In April 2020 the [European Union announced the three winners of the RESponsible Island Prize](#). Launched in 2019, the Prize rewards achievements in local renewable energy production for electricity, heating, cooling and transport on islands.

Many of Europe's 2400 islands are small isolated systems and small markets. However, these islands, where 15 million Europeans live, have the potential to be frontrunners in the clean energy transition by adopting new technologies and implementing innovative solutions. The European Commission is acting to develop and support the clean energy potential of European island communities. The idea behind the Prize is to show how small local communities can make the transition to sustainable energy systems and to inspire others to do the same.

The winners of the 2020 edition of the *RESponsible Islands Prize* are the following Islands:

[The Island of Bornholm in Denmark](#). The island's utility company, Bornholm's Energy and Utilities, can currently produce about 62 % of the island's energy needs and the ambition is to increase fossil-free energy production to cover the consumption. The renewable energy produced on the island is harvested through wind, sun and biomass. The island inhabitants have erected more than 35 large wind turbines, as well as assorted household ones, and energy plants that burn straw, wood pellets and waste. District heating grids have been established in all towns on the island. For more information: [Bornholm Island website](#); [Article in Horizon Magazine](#).

[The Island of Samsø in Denmark](#). In just ten years, the Island of Samsø has shown how local communities are the way forward. Samsø has collectively invested in sustainable energy systems, which today are partially owned by the residents. Samsø is today 100% self-sufficient in renewable energy, and have a negative CO2 footprint of minus 3.5 tons per resident. Samsø Energy Academy has become a physical and virtual gathering place where to convey knowledge also using the local catalog of development initiatives that are anchored in existing resources and in the potential of technical solutions. For more information: [Samsø Island website](#).



[The Orkney Islands in the United Kingdom.](#) The Orkney energy revolution has been led, inspired and supported from within the community and involving participation processes at every stage. In Orkney there are over 300 jobs related to renewables; over 700 individual energy generators and technology investors; 12 large scale and numerous micro community wind turbines locally providing clean energy and income. For more information: [Orkney Island website.](#)

The *RESponsible Islands Prize* is in line with the [Clean Energy for EU Islands Initiative](#), which provides a long-term framework to help islands generate their own sustainable and low-cost energy. It also contributes to the [Mission Innovation Challenge 2 on Off-Grid Electricity](#) with the objective to develop systems that enable off-grid households and communities to access affordable and reliable renewable electricity. [The European Green Deal](#) is the roadmap for making the EU's economy sustainable and the prize provides visibility to its objectives for remote communities.

The next edition of the *RESponsible Island Prize* is now open for applications. The contest is open to islands located within the territory of an EU country including overseas countries and territories or [countries associated to Horizon 2020](#). Applicants can submit their proposals by 29 September 2020.

### To know more

[2020 winners of the RESponsible Island Prize](#)

[Clean Energy for EU Islands Initiative](#)

[Clean Energy for EU Islands Initiative pdf.](#)

[The European Green Deal](#)

[2021 Prize for Renewable Energy Islands](#)

