

# Creating Community to Realise the Green Economy: Development Drivers and the RDPs

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Global Ecovillage Network of Europe**

Workshop 3: Innovation, cooperation and community led strategies  
RDP tools for promoting the key drivers of the green economy  
ENRD Seminar: Changing our Mindsets -  
Seizing opportunities in the Green Economy  
1st July 2016, Berlaymont Building, Brussels

# How can RDPs seize opportunities for a greener economy?

**Inject new thinking into depopulating rural areas?**

**Get behavioural change in tradition-bound areas?**

**Retain or attract young people to live and work in rural areas?**



# Case: Suderbyn Permaculture Ecovillage

1<sup>st</sup> project: Leader project to inventory local efforts and create website (2007-2008) 70 000 SEK

2<sup>nd</sup> project: “Start for permaculture ecovillage” RDP project to hold weekend course in Nov 2008, 30 000 SEK

3<sup>rd</sup> project: Leader project to create ecovillage (2009-2013), 1 500 000 SEK

# **“Creation of Sweden's first permaculture ecovillage with forest garden, phase 1”**

- **First Submitted March 2009**
- **Full application August 2009**
- **Approved 19 Nov 2010**
- **Full implementation from Jan 2011**
- **Completed Dec 2013**

# The main project

“The project aim is to establish a demonstration model of international standard for high quality of life in the rural area, sustainable lifestyle and innovations for entrepreneurship.”

Investment: landscaping ponds and gardens, basic infrastructure, signage.

Total budget 1 513 880 SEK

- 500 000 SEK co-finance, 90% volunteer hours
- 122 000 SEK national public co-financing
  - University
  - Unemployment Office

**RESULT: Youth-oriented international living and learning experimental centre**



[www.suderbyn.se](http://www.suderbyn.se)

# Key enabling factors for a community-led green economy

- Motivation and commitment of people to change behaviour
- Rural area focus on resource mobilisation for job creation
- Community-led movements have social innovation tools which public/business sectors lack
- Innovation created where diversity meets

# Challenges of using RDPs to achieve a Community-led Green Economy



- Innovation vs LAG
- Liquidity
- Bureaucracy
- Single fund projects
- No volunteer contributions

# Increasing Green Economy impact with the RDPs



**Channel the existing momentum of the community-led movements, particularly involving youth**

***Support academic involvement in practical action research with rural development actors***

***Cooperate with community-led movements in identifying and removing obstacles to the Greener Economy***