9 Good Reasons for Local Ownership

Local commitment to the Middelgrunden project has proven a key factor in carrying through this wind development. Without the involvement of local people the Middelgrunden project would have never succeeded. There are many good reasons for and advantages of local ownership.

1. **Local ownership results in more installed wind capacity**
   In countries with a legal and financial environment that enables local wind developments, local investment has played a major role. In Denmark 86% of all turbines are owned by private, local investors and most early projects were local.

2. **Local ownership creates local dialogue and acceptance**
   Through dialogues with different interest groups, Copenhagen Energy and Environment Office and the Middelgrunden Cooperative, with its 8,500 members, generated a widespread understanding for and social acceptance of the chosen location and layout of the farm. The Danish experience shows that there are more complaints when utilities install wind than when the local population does so.

3. **Local ownership raises public awareness**
   During the establishment of the Middelgrunden project more than 50,000 people received information directly and more than 50,000 people visited the Middelgrunden homepage. For many people electricity suddenly was something that did not just come out of the socket.

4. **Local ownership solves problems and conflicts**
   The Middelgrunden working group avoided or solved potential conflicts by taking direct contact to various local interest groups at an early stage in the development of the project. Contact was taken to The Middelgrunden Fort, The Association for Beautification of the Capital, and local fishermen. Also the contact to and involvement of the local branch of The Danish Society for the Conservation of Nature was important.

5. **Private investment promotes cheaper and better technologies**
   A private wind cooperative often pays more attention to the details of the wind project than the utilities do, since the wind development is only a small part of their business. In the Middelgrunden project this resulted in a cheaper solution for the grid connection than the one originally proposed by Copenhagen Energy.

6. **Local production demands less transmission lines and saves electricity**
   The grid loss is minimised by local electricity production. In Denmark the average grid loss is 9% of the electricity production, in some countries it goes as high as 17%. The loss inside the Middelgrunden wind farm is measured at 2.7%, including the cable to the shore and distribution the loss is less than 5%.

7. **Local turbines are democratic**
   With local investment in power production, it is the local people, who take the decision on planning and implementation of power supply. It brings more responsibility to the local level, which is subject to both benefits and disadvantages.

8. **Local production makes sustainable development understandable**
   The Middelgrunden project is a local and clear example on how people can contribute to a sustainable development. The wind turbines on Middelgrunden illustrate our use of resources and enable us to see the consequences of their use.

9. **Local ownership gives people opportunity to act for sustainable development**
   The Middelgrunden project has been an outstanding possibility of engaging the entire population of the capital in a practical and sustainable action. Seen in the context of Agenda-21 and the plan of action of the UN environmental summit in Rio such initiatives are highly important.