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**RESEARCH
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EMPOWERING CHANGEMAKERS FOR A BETTER SOCIETY

“FROM ENERGY JUSTICE TO FEELINGS OF INJUSTICE: THE CASE OF OFFSHORE WINDFARMS IN NORWAY”

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ABSTRACT

The research seeks to explore how a small island community in Norway struggle to keep on existing in the Anthropocene, and in doing so, envision better futures. The transformation from fossil-based energy sources to CO₂-free energy sources has potentially major impact on the communities affected by green infrastructure. Due to major conflicts between public authorities, industry and local communities related to the establishment of onshore wind farms, Norway is now aiming to realize offshore wind as it is expected that these settings be less conflictive. The first insights from an ongoing fieldwork show that for the local community the question is not whether they are for or against offshore wind, but rather what it can mean for the survival of the local community.

From the pragmatist point of view of John Dewey, the island’s inhabitants form a “public” struggling to find solutions for the problems at stake. Imagining how to go on living on the island, and how, for instance, to get the youth come back from the mainland, drives different inquiries about their socio-technological realities and common life. These inquiries developing over time help build a community based on idiosyncratic understandings of sustainability. We argue that drawing on Dewey’s and Mead’s philosophy helps understand what being sustain-able means to Utsira’s inhabitants, and how the processes expected to contribute to more energy justice can unexpectedly lead to feelings of injustice.

