



**The Copper project with a stand and presentations at the Climate People's Meeting
in Middelfart, Denmark, August 27–29, 2026**



Last week, the Norwegian partners in the EU-funded COPPER project, Ruralis, Egersund Næring og Havn, and Dalane Energi, participated in Klimafolkemødet in Middelfart, Denmark. The event provided an excellent opportunity to present the work being carried out by COPPER partners in Portugal, the Netherlands, Denmark and Norway.

Drawing on experiences from the Circular Kaupanes initiative and the work of Dalane Energi, we engaged with visitors from across Denmark and, to some extent, other countries, sharing what we are working on and why energy sharing represents an important pathway towards a more sustainable energy future.

Klimafolkemødet is one of Scandinavia's largest events dedicated to climate action and sustainability. Over the course of three days, approximately 40,000 visitors attended the festival, bringing together citizens, school pupils, students, researchers, businesses, public authorities and decision-makers to explore solutions for a greener and more sustainable future.

Throughout the event, we presented Circular Kaupanes, an initiative focused on developing industrial energy symbiosis in Eigersund, Norway. We also showcased the DUT-funded COPPER project, which explores innovative approaches to the energy transition and how local communities and stakeholders can play an active role in developing sustainable energy systems.

One of the highlights of our stand was the range of interactive activities and demonstrations. Visitors had the opportunity to explore a hydrogen-powered vehicle, a miniature wind turbine and small solar panels, all demonstrating how renewable energy can be used to produce green hydrogen and how hydrogen can subsequently serve as a clean transport fuel. We also offered a selection of environmental-themed online and board games, creating opportunities for visitors to learn, discuss and have fun at the same time.

What made the experience particularly rewarding was the diversity of people who visited both the festival and our stand. We met curious school pupils, students, professionals, families and local residents who wanted to learn more about renewable energy and circular economy solutions. Many stayed for extended conversations, asking insightful questions and sharing their own ideas and experiences.

We were also pleased to welcome representatives from other projects and organisations within the Driving Urban Transitions (DUT) network. In addition, the event provided valuable opportunities to connect with researchers, sustainability students and professionals working on projects facing many of the same challenges and opportunities as our own. These encounters led to fruitful discussions and knowledge exchange.

Beyond our own stand, the event featured a wide range of inspiring panel discussions and learning opportunities. Particularly relevant for our team was a session on energy sharing and energy communities in Denmark, where participants discussed practical experiences and future opportunities for local energy cooperation. Two students who had recently completed a master's thesis on energy sharing also delivered an excellent presentation highlighting both the opportunities and challenges associated with energy sharing. Kristian Borch, former Norwegian COPPER project leader, contributed through presentations and by moderating panel discussions on the topic. These discussions provided valuable insights that are highly relevant to the ongoing work within Circular Kaupanes and the wider COPPER network.

Overall, Klimafolkemødet offered an inspiring platform for dialogue, learning and collaboration. The event reinforced the importance of engaging citizens, businesses and local communities in the energy transition and demonstrated the growing interest in innovative approaches such as energy sharing and energy communities.

